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In re application of: **Gerald DEBOY et al.**

Serial No.: **09/530,553**

GROUP ART UNIT: **2815**

Filed: **July 21, 2000**

EXAMINER: **Brock II**

For: **"HIGH VOLTAGE RESISTANT EDGE STRUCTURE FOR SEMICONDUCTOR ELEMENTS"**

RESPONSE TO ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington D.C. 20231

SIR:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

☒ No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	(2) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(4) HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(5) PRESENT EXTRA	(6) RATE	(7) ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	*	MINUS	**	X 0	() X 9.00 () X 18.00	
INDEP. CLAIMS	*	MINUS		X 0	() X 40.00 () X 80.00	
Application amended to contain any multiple dependent claims not previously paid for				() YES () NO	() \$130.00 () \$260.00 ONE TIME	
				TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT		\$

* If the entry in Column 2 is less than the entry in Column 4, write "0" in Column 5.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20 write "20" in this space.

☒ Applicants petition the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend this time for response to the Office Action dated September 19, 2001 for 1 month so that the period for response is extended to November 19, 2001.

A check in the amount of \$ 110.00 is attached to cover the cost of the extension. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to deposit account No. 501519. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

☐ A check for \$ _____ accompanying IDS under 37 CFR 1.97(c) is attached

☐ A check for \$ _____ and Petition for Consideration of IDS under 37 CFR 1.97(d) is attached.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to account No. 501519. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

When phoning re this application, please call 312/258-5785.

SCHIFF HARDIN & WAITE CUSTOMER NO. 26574

A Professional Corporation

BY Melvin A. Robinson (Reg. No. 31,870)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on November 19, 2001.

Melvin A. Robinson (Registration No. 31,870)

NAME OF APPLICANT'S ATTORNEY

SIGNATURE

November 19, 2001

DATE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**RESPONSE TO ACTION AND PETITION FOR
EXTENSION OF TIME**

APPLICANT: Gerald DEBOY et al. CASE NO.: P00,0578
SERIAL NO.: 09/530,553 EXAMINER: Brock II
FILING DATE: July 21, 2000 ART UNIT: 2815
INVENTION: HIGH VOLTAGE RESISTANT EDGE STRUCTURE FOR
SEMICONDUCTOR ELEMENTS"


Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

SIR:

Applicants petition the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks for a one month extension of time in the period of response for the Office Action dated September 19, 2001, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and is enclosing a check for the \$110.00 fee so that the period of response is extended from October 19, 2001, to November 19, 2001.

In response to the Office Action dated September 19, 2001, Applicants hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, the Species II depicted in Figure 5B. Claims 16, and 20-30 are drawn to the elected species.

In the Office Action, the Examiner held that the species of the invention lack a unity of invention, citing five species as disclosed in Figures 5A-5E. However, the Examiner acknowledged that the main independent 16 is generic to all disclosed species, and further that claims 21-30 are generic.



Applicants assert that the Examiner is in error and that the present application complies with the requirement for unity of invention. The present application is directed to a single inventive concept, for example as embodied in claim 16 of the present application. Applicants assert that there is a technical relationship among the species identified by the Examiner involving a single special technical feature which defines the contribution of the present invention over the prior art. Specifically, the present invention provides a floating guard ring and/or inter-ring zones which have conductivities and/or geometries set so that the free charge carriers are totally depleted when a blocking voltage is applied. Thus, a single inventive concept is embodied in the invention so that unity of invention requirements are met under PCT Rule 13.2.

Dependent claims are permitted to claim specific forms of the invention under PCT Rule 13.4. The Examiner has identified these dependent claims as evidence of lack of unity of invention. However, as the rule permits such claiming, the Examiner's requirement is a misapplication of the rule.

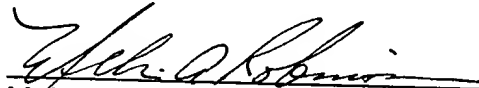
The present application discloses various structures for carrying out the invention, as shown in Figures 5A-E. PCT unity of invention rule 13.1 states that the application shall relate to a group of inventions linked to form a signal general inventive concept. The disclosed invention has been shown to relate to a single inventive concept as set forth above. The embodiments of Figures 5A-E depict the group of inventions embodying this single concept.

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The Examiner is therefore in error in finding a lack of unity of invention in the Figures 5A-E.

Accordingly, the present application having been shown to meet all requirements of unity of invention, Applicants respectfully request that the requirement be withdrawn and all embodiments and claims of the present application be examined together.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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The Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

on November 19, 2001.

